Incorporation never happens, but in 1859 Parliament passes "An Act Respecting Homeopathy," which make it pssible for homeopaths who are graduates of non-British institutions to obtain a license. Dr. Campell and Dr. Hall, one of the doctors who will sign Mary's "Certificate of Insanity," sit on the first Board of Examiners for Homeopathic physicians. Board Members are elected for a two-year term at an annual meeting in Toronto. The "Act" establishes a curriculum, with two six-month winter sessions at a medical college, and a four-year term of apprenticeship in a licensed practitioner's office. A similar "Act" is passed for eclectics in 1861. Finally, in 1866 one Dr. Parker, a Member of Parliament, introduces an "Act" to establish a province-wide Council for all licensed doctors, which would in turn establish a province-wide curriculum.

Dr. Campbell clashes with this Council, when they refuse to receive him at their first general meeting. He and his homeopathic colleagues walk out of the meeting. On one hand the "Act" of 1866 allows the Homeopathic Board to continue exactly as before; on the other, it gives homeopaths the right to be represented by the Council.[xliv] The contradiction, which effectively thwarts the purpose of the "Act," to standardize medical education in the province, is resolved by the "Ontario Medical Act" of 1869, a compromise which guarantees homeopaths and eclectics a certain number of seats on a Medical Council which includes regional and college representatives. Mary's "illness," suicide, and inquest occur during the interval between these two "Acts," a period of intense professional rivalry and even jealousy in the medical community, when Campbell would have been quick to defend himself against any threat to his professional powers and prestige.[xlv]

Initially, in his brief "Preface,"[xlvi] he responds to the incompleteness of the coverage in the Toronto Daily Telegraph of Saturday, May 9, 1868, which he feels "reflected most unjustly and calumniously both upon me and upon my son." He indicates that he has inserted an "explanatory letter" in the May 13 issue, but regrets a limitation of newspaper publishing, its very limited run: "it was soon found impossible to procure a copy of it at any price" (Preface ii). The publication of his pamphlet thus appears to be motivated by a desire to remedy this incomplete coverage, by assembling all kinds of data -- "the evidence in full" (Preface ii) -- for consideration in one place, from a single unified point of view, however briefly -- if not exactly for the gaze, then for the backward glance: